

**LUCY ROBBINS WELLES LIBRARY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
FEBRUARY 8, 2010**

**BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Paul Crosswaith, Anna Eddy, Sue Halpin, Judy Igielski, Pauline Kruk, Alan Nafis, Maureen O'Connor Lyons, Eric Rothauser, Neil Ryan, Diane Stamm

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT**

Dennis Doyle, Iris Larsson, LeeAnn Manke, Tony Palermino, Trudie Walker

**STAFF**

Marian Amodeo, Library Director  
Lisa Masten, Assistant Library Director  
Gail Whitney, Secretary for the Board

**TOWN COUNCIL LIAISON**

David Nagel

**TOWN COUNCIL LIAISON ABSENT**

Kris Nasinnyk

**FRIENDS MEMBERS**

Mary Jane Michaels

**BOARD OF EDUCATION LIAISON**

Sharon Braverman

**GUESTS**

David King, Kaestle Boos Associates, Inc.  
Elizabeth Berman, Kaestle Boos Associates, Inc.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Eric Rothauser at 7:02 PM.

David King and Elizabeth Berman from Kaestle Boos presented information on the Library's expansion. The schematic they showed was for a single story addition outside of the existing building so that the Library could stay open throughout construction and renovation. The new entrance would be facing Garfield Street with a portico area and the actual door placed farther back. Parking would be expanded to 150 spaces, with handicapped parking spaces right in front of the building. The Friends would have a year-round store. The main stairway presently leading upstairs to the Children's area would be modified, as most of the staff office space would be on the second floor. The Children's area would now be downstairs. The Library's present square footage is 25,041; the addition would bring it to 40,992, with the possibility of a 45,622 square footage increase.

David King and Elizabeth Berman thanked the Board for their feedback, and any questions posed and suggestions made this evening would be reviewed.

**I. ROLL CALL**

**II. SECRETARY'S REPORT/COMMUNICATIONS/MINUTES**

Judy stated she had no report, and reminded Board members to let her know if a card should be sent regarding an illness, death, or congratulatory.

**MOTION: Maureen O'Connor Lyons made a motion to accept the minutes of the regular monthly meeting of January 11, 2010, Judy Igielski seconded the motion, and the motion to accept the minutes of the regular monthly meeting of January 11, 2010 was unanimously approved with a 10-0 vote.**

**III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Eric welcomed back Town Council Liaison David Nagel. David commented that he and Kris Nasinnyk will alternate their attendance at Library Board meetings.

Eric also welcomed Board of Education Liaison Sharon Braverman. Sharon commented that she is excited to be working together with the Library.

**IV. TREASURER'S REPORT**

Iris was not in attendance. Eric reported that everything is status quo.

**V. LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Marian reported that the Library statistics continue to increase; Sunday hours in January increased 41% in circulation of materials and 48% in attendance. The Library's webpage visits have also increased substantially. Lisa's kickoff for the winter reading program increased 49%.

Marian, Lisa, and Department Heads held a very successful and productive meeting with Superintendent of Schools Dr. William Collins. Ideas were shared; the Library once again has a presence at the elementary schools open houses in September; textbooks are now available in the Library for students for Library usage only; and the lack of space for tutors was discussed – a room in the old police department will be furnished for tutors to use. A new relationship with the Board of Education and Library has begun with a liaison from the Board of Education attending the Library meetings; tonight Sharon Braverman was in attendance.

Patrons and Friends members should have received the February/March Footnotes newsletter that is filled with programs; school vacation programs are scheduled for the week of February 15<sup>th</sup>.

Trinity College Academy of LifeLong Learning began a class at the Library entitled "A Sacred Mess: The Hebrew Bible." Registration was high for this six week class that is held on Tuesday mornings in the Lienhard Room.

Marian also thanked the Board for their attention and input with tonight's presentation from Kaestle Boos on the Library's expansion.

## **VI. ASSISTANT LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Lisa reported that four laptops were purchased by the Friends. These laptops will be used in holding small computer classes for job seekers, and for staff training.

## **VII. FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY**

Mary Jane Michaels reported that donations are flying in for the next Book Sale scheduled for April 30<sup>th</sup> through May 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Friends will hold a Children's Book Sale during vacation week, and a Romance Book Sale for Valentine's Day.

## **VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **A. PEP (Planning, Evaluation, Policy)**

Trudie was not in attendance.

### **B. Investment Committee**

#### **1. Report on January 20<sup>th</sup> meeting with Carol Pekarul**

Neil reported that the Committee met with Carol Pekarul on January 20<sup>th</sup> and the Oakmark and Vanguard funds did well in 2009. Some Vanguard funds were transferred to US Treasury Bonds. There was an issue with the administration of the Oakmark account and names on this account, but this has been taken care of.

### **C. House Committee**

#### **1. Update on House Projects**

Diane reported that the Committee is still putting together costs for the outside issues; specifically purchasing shutters.

### **D. Facility and Site**

#### **1. Further Clean-up Efforts**

Iris was not in attendance. Marian reported that they are still looking into the removal of the tree stump. The Town has recently purchased a bucket truck; staff is being trained on this bucket truck, and hopefully the removal of the trees can begin soon.

### **E. Fund Development**

Anna stated that she had no report; the Fund Development Committee will be meeting after tonight's Library Board meeting.

## F. Budget

1. Recap of Budget Work Session on January 19<sup>th</sup>
2. Meet with Town Council on Tuesday, March 9<sup>th</sup>

Maureen and Marian met with the Town Manager and Finance Director on January 19<sup>th</sup>. The increase is minimal and there wasn't any bad news. The Town Manager and Finance Director will review the Library's budget. The budget will be presented to the Town Council on Tuesday, March 9<sup>th</sup>. Maureen encouraged Board members to attend this Town Council budget meeting to support the Library's budget.

## IX. **OLD BUSINESS**

### A. Expansion Study Discussion

Kaestle Boos made their presentation at the beginning of tonight's meeting.

At the January meeting Dennis had asked about statistics on Newington's demographics and projected population. Marian obtained this information and distributed it to the Board. There was discussion on Newington's diversity and language barriers. Sharon commented that Board of Education statistics show 37 different ethnic groups in Newington, and she asked if there were language books in the Library.

Marian also noted that the Board had in their packets an article from the New York Times about the housing stock in Newington. It remains affordable and young families continue to move in.

### B. 5K Road Race

Eric reported that the 5K Road Race Committee met this evening. Keeney Manufacturing and the Giantonio Family have committed to their sponsorship for the 2010 race. The Amateur Radio League has indicated they would like to provide assistance with this year's race. Sponsorships hope to be finalized by the end of the month and then the registration will go on-line - \$18 pre-registration/\$20 day of; 12 years and younger \$8 pre-registration/\$10 day of. Several Library Board Trustees have given individual donations at the \$100 sponsorship level in the past; however any amount by a Board Trustee is welcomed.

### C. Board of Education/Library Board Networking

Eric indicated that Sharon Braverman is in attendance this evening as a liaison for the Board of Education. He asked if Board members would like to take turns serving as a liaison for the Board of Education meetings. Sharon indicated that the Board of Education would like to hold a networking event with the Library Board as part of an outreach plan. Sharon also reported that one of the budget issues in the Board of Education's budget plan is to close school buildings at least two nights per week, which might increase traffic and room usage at the Library.

D. Draft Plan of Conservation and Development

Marian reported that the information related to the Library in the Draft Plan of Conservation and Developed was very general, as discussed with the Board at the January meeting. She expanded on this language and sent this wording to Ed Meehan.

E. First Amendment Issues – Cheshire Public Library

There was no further report on this issue at this time.

**X. NEW BUSINESS**

There was no New Business.

**XI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There was no Public Participation.

**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION: Anna Eddy made a motion to adjourn, Maureen O'Connor Lyons seconded the motion, all were in favor, and the motion to adjourn was unanimously accepted with a 10-0 vote at 8:25 PM.**